

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## TRIBUTE TO MORTON "MORT" KIMMEL

### HON. LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2018*

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Morton Kimmel, or Mort to those who knew him. As a lifelong Delawarean, Mort was a great husband, father, grandfather, lawyer and philanthropist. He founded several non-profits and charities and devoted his life to serving others throughout Delaware.

After graduating from law school, he began practicing in the Wilmington area, eventually becoming a founding partner of Kimmel, Carter, Roman, Peltz and O'Neill PA. An attorney by trade, Mort tried more than 100 cases while simultaneously working on the charities that were the center of his life.

After Mort's son, Larry Kimmel, participated in the 1997 Blue-Gold Senior All-Star Games, Mort saw an opportunity to enhance the annual event as a fundraiser for local non-profits and charities to rally community support around the games. Today, because of Mort's work, the Blue-Gold Games are now played at the University of Delaware's Bob Carpenter Center and have become a statewide affair attracting people from all over. Proceeds from the game directly benefit Best Buddies Delaware, a non-profit providing aid to those with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Mort's love of Delaware and philanthropic efforts extended beyond the Blue-Gold Games. He founded the First State Police Foundation, a non-profit organization that funds public safety initiatives with private sector donations. He also led the Kimmel-Spiller Charitable Foundation and served on the board of directors for the Ronald McDonald House and Cancer Care Connection. In recognition of his generous spirit and life of service to Delaware, Mort was awarded the Order of the First State by then-Governor Jack Markell in 2017. Fittingly, he was inducted into the Delaware Basketball Hall of Fame earlier this Year.

It is with heavy hearts that we grieve the loss of our dear friend. Mort's selflessness touched the lives of Delawareans from all backgrounds, including the most vulnerable citizens, and I want to express my gratitude for the opportunities, services and care he provided to so many. It has been one of the greatest pleasures of my life to call Mort my friend, and there is no doubt in my mind that Mort Kimmel's impact will be felt in Delaware for decades to come.

## SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SYRIAN CIVIL WAR

### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2018*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, we recently marked the passage of seven years since peaceful protests against the ineffective, cruel, and undemocratic regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad were escalated by President Assad into a brutal civil war. It has cost hundreds of thousands of lives, displaced 6.1 million people inside Syria, caused another 5.4 million Syrians to flee to nearby countries, and left nearly 3 million people in besieged areas. Assad has gassed his own people, and dropped barrel bombs on his own cities. Assad's actions set the conditions for ISIS to metastasize into Syria, prosper, and spread terror and chaos in the region. He and his closest friends on the international stage, President Putin of Russia and the leadership of Iran, demonstrate no regard for the safety or wellbeing of the Syrian people.

The continuation of this war into its eighth year is a tragedy. The United States is right to stand in opposition to Assad's brutality and against the countless non-state groups that have seized on the chaos to pursue their own agendas, many of which are apocalyptic and dangerous to our national security.

Consistent with our national interest, we must do everything in our power to bring this conflict to a halt and prevent Syria, its ungoverned spaces, and the refugee camps on the territory of Syria's neighbors from becoming a breeding ground for the next generation of radical terrorists. This effort requires continued efforts by the military and our intelligence services, but also demands muscular diplomacy to find a lasting political solution and robust foreign aid to provide a generation of Syrians with opportunities other than picking up a rifle.

Until a lasting solution is found I believe our country needs to do so much more to relieve the suffering of those injured and displaced. We are an immigrant nation of 330 million, and yet from Fiscal Year 2011 to the end of February this year, we permitted less than 22,000 refugees from Syria to enter the United States. This is a failure to act compassionately, and I fear that history will judge America harshly for its tepid response to the torment and suffering of untold souls.

I encourage my colleagues and the Administration to not lose sight of the ongoing violence perpetrated by Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and his allies and to redouble our efforts to bring this horrific humanitarian crisis to a close.

## HONORING CHARLIE RICHARD AND ORA LEE BENSON

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2018*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Richard and Ora Lee Benson for their 73rd year of marriage.

Mr. Charlie was the only child born to the late Beatrice Anderson-Benson and the late Pinkney "Bill" Benson, Sr. on February 21, 1925. His mother died after giving birth to him. His father later married the late Martha Ross-Benson and had four children from this union. Pinkney "Nick" Benson II, Robert "Bob" Benson, Mayzle Dean Benson who are all deceased, and his youngest sister, Gloria Benson-Remus, who lives in Lexington, MS.

Charlie's father and grandfather were both farmers and he followed in their footsteps. He was also a self-taught carpenter, worked at a coal factory and retired from Fleetwood Homes both in Lexington, MS.

On September 30, 1944 Charlie married his sweetheart, Ora Lee White. She is the third child of Lou Etta Thurmond-White and Cleveland White. She worked by her husband's side as a farmer and later worked many years as a cook at Lexington Elementary School until she retired.

There were twelve children born from this union: Frank McKinley Benson, Beatrice Benson-McKennie, Mayzle Jean Benson-LeSure, Howard Benson, Sylvester P. Benson, Maxcine Benson-Cobbins, William Carl Benson (deceased), Billie A. Benson-Ramsey, Jimmie Louis and Mildred Louise Benson are twins (Mildred is deceased), Leon Benson and Laverne Benson.

They have two god sons, Calvin Friar and Dennis Moore, also one god daughter, Diana Randle. There are 30 grandchildren, 41 great grandchildren, and 4 great, great grandchildren and many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Mr. Charlie Richard served as a deacon until his health failed, and Mother Ora Benson served as a Mother on the Motherboard from the Guiding Light C.O.G.I.C. of Lexington MS.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this beautiful couple that is celebrating their longevity of love and affection for 73 years of marriage.

## HONORING THE MEMORY OF EDWARD G. SACCO

### HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2018*

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a longtime constituent and World War II veteran Edward G.

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